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MCEER Participates in Project Impact



FEMA hosted its annual Project Impact Summit this past December in Washington, DC. Project Impact is a national FEMA initiative which supports selected community-based activities to promote disaster mitigation and containment of disaster losses. Its objective is to build disaster resilient communities across the U.S. The meeting offered community representatives opportunities to listen, network, share and learn to improve their own activities to develop community partnerships and mitigation strategies. Access to extensive informational resources complimented the program; keynote addresses by FEMA Director James Lee Witt and ESRI CEO Jack Dangermond were notable highlights.

MCEER investigator and Research Committee member Professor Joanne M. Nigg (UDEL/DRC) is a Principal Investigator on a FEMA project to conduct an assessment of seven U.S. communities initially selected to participate in the disaster-resistant community initiative. Dr. Nigg addressed an Executive Session of FEMA program officials to review her findings.

MCEER is a partner and informational resource for the newly-established Project Impact community of Buffalo, New York. Andrea Dargush attended the Summit on the Center's behalf with the Buffalo team. More information about Project Impact can be found at <http://www.fema.gov>.

Resources and Model Mitigation Plans Available

In an effort to reach out to those involved in planning for disaster resistant communities, the MCEER Information Service recently completed two projects: a web guide to resources for Project Impact participants and the acquisition of model mitigation plans. The guide lists web sites that provide information on disaster mitigation and management and is accessible at <http://mceer.buffalo.edu/infoService/bibs/PILinks.html>.

The model plans can assist local planners with post-disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts and are available for loan from the University at Buffalo Libraries. Contact Laura Taddeo for additional information by email: ltaddeo@acsu.buffalo.edu or phone: (716) 645-3377. ❖